

William Bolcom's *Sonata for Two Pianos* was commissioned for Anthony and Joseph Paratore by the Department of Convocations at Purdue University, assisted by Ron and Ruth Wukasch, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois, and the Wisconsin Union Theater at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In *Ancient Dances*, the composer deliberately juxtaposes ancient Greek rhythms and the soft-shoe dance style that grew out of the blues. This movement also contains the harmonic resolution of the tonal conflicts presented in the first two movements. William Bolcom is a professor of composition at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor whose compositions have often been inspired by American dance and theater music.

#### CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

*Under the direction of George Manos*

##### MARCH 1996

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|----|---|---|
| 31 | The Starr-Kim-Boeckheler<br>Piano Trio<br>Susan Starr, <i>piano</i><br>Chin Kim, <i>violin</i><br>Ulrich Boeckheler, <i>cello</i> | Mozart: <i>Piano Trio, K. 502</i><br>Ravel: <i>Trio in A Minor</i><br>Arensky: <i>Trio in D Minor</i> |
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##### APRIL 1996

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| 7  | National Gallery Chamber<br>Players | Music for winds and piano<br>Gyorgy Ligeti: <i>Six Bagatelles</i><br>Stuart Balcomb: <i>Ellis Island</i><br>Lalo Schifrin: <i>La nouvelle</i><br>Ludwig Thuille: <i>Sextet</i> |
| 14 | National Gallery Chamber<br>Players | Music for string quartet<br>and clarinet<br>Mozart: <i>Quintet, K. 581</i><br>Brahms: <i>Quintet, Opus 113</i>   |

*Concerts from the National Gallery are broadcast in their entirety at 7:00 p.m. on Sundays on radio station WGTS, 91.9 FM, four weeks after the live performance. The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.*

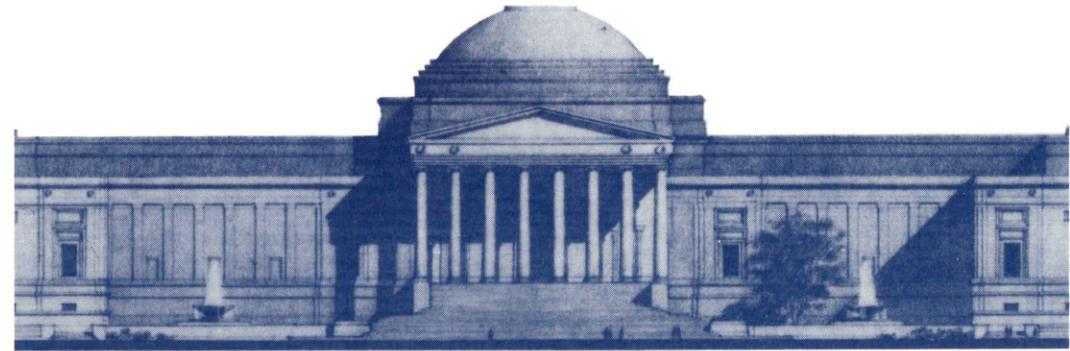
*For the convenience of concertgoers  
the Garden Café remains open until 6:30 p.m.*

*The Fifty-fourth Season of*

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and  
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

at the

National Gallery of Art



*2187th Concert*

ANTHONY AND JOSEPH PARATORE, *duo-pianists*

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Sunday Evening, March 24, 1996  
at Seven O'clock  
West Building, West Garden Court

*Admission free*

## PROGRAM

Maurice Ravel  
(1875-1937)

Rapsodie espagnole  
(1907-08)

Prélude à la nuit  
Malagueña  
Habanera  
Feria

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873-1943)

Suite No. 1, Opus 15  
(1900-01)

Barcarolle  
A Night for Love  
Tears  
Russian Easter

## INTERMISSION

William Bolcom  
(b. 1943)

Sonata in One Movement for Two Pianos

Gaia; Night Diversions; Ancient Dances

Darius Milhaud  
(1892-1974)

Scaramouche  
Opus 165b (1937)

Vif  
Modéré  
Brasileira

Whether on one piano or two, ANTHONY and JOSEPH PARATORE are considered one of today's foremost keyboard duos. They were the first American duo-pianists ever to win First Prize at the Munich International Piano Competition. Since that victory launched their career, they have appeared on numerous celebrity series throughout the United States, and with such orchestras as the Berlin Philharmonic, the National Symphony, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, and the New York Philharmonic. They are frequent guests at the Berlin, Salzburg, and Lucerne Music Festivals, as well as at Spoleto U.S.A. and at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival. The Paratore Brothers have appeared on many national television programs, including NBC's "Today Show" and "Tonight Show," as well as NPR's "All Things Considered." They have also appeared often on European television, for networks in London, Paris, Berlin, and Munich.

Born in Boston of Italian-American descent, Anthony and Joseph Paratore come from a large, close-knit musical family. After graduating from the Boston University School of Fine and Applied Arts, both went to the Juilliard School in New York as scholarship students of Rosina Lhevinne. It was Miss Lhevinne who encouraged the brothers to link up as a duo-piano team. Anthony and Joseph Paratore record for Koch International, and appear at the National Gallery by arrangement with Mariedi Anders Artists Management, Inc. of San Francisco, California.

Maurice Ravel's mother, a woman of Basque origin, instilled in him a love of the Basque country and a deep feeling for the music of Spain. Several compositions by Ravel are colored by Spanish rhythms, modality, and embellishments, including *Rapsodie espagnole*, his first significant symphonic piece. The *Rapsodie* is among those orchestral works that Ravel transcribed for two pianos, four hands with great success. The *Habanera* movement was originally conceived as a piece for two pianos, so in this case it is the orchestral version that is the transcription.

Rachmaninoff's first suite for two pianos was dedicated to Tchaikovsky. The work is characterized by thick textures, rich sonorities, and flashy keyboard displays. The second movement includes pianistic imitations of bird calls, and the fourth ends with "sound effects" that are possible only when two pianos are played by four hands: a carillon of bells, like those of the Kremlin, peals triumphantly above the liturgical Easter chant, *Christ is Risen*.